United Nations E/C.19/2004/4/Add.3

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
3 March 2004
English
Original: Russian

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Third session
New York, 10-21 May 2004
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Mandated areas

Information received from Governments

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

Russian Federation

* E/C.19/2004/1.

04-25973 (E) 050404 050404

Information from the Russian Federation on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report on the second session

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (reference: DESA/PF11/2003/3)

1. Economic and Social Development

The special-programme method of providing State support to the small indigenous minorities of the North is one of the mechanisms used for establishing the conditions for their sustainable economic and social development.

Decision No. 564 of 27 July 2001 by the Government of the Russian Federation approved the federal special programme "Economic and Social Development of Small Indigenous Minorities of the North up to 2011". The programme's basic objective is to establish conditions to enable indigenous peoples to achieve sustainable development based on the principals of self sufficiency through comprehensive development of traditional economic practices, their resource and production base, spiritual and ethnocultural development and by raising the level of the education, vocational training and health care of indigenous peoples.

The programme provides for the creation of economic and legal conditions for supporting traditional economic practices and transporting their products to market as well as organizing trade and bartering. To this end, it is necessary to protect the rights of indigenous peoples in the exploitation of natural resources and raw materials in the areas where they live and conduct their traditional economic activities, develop minority local self-government and establish a basically new system of education and training of qualified personnel from among these peoples.

The overall level of financing for the programme's activities from the consolidated budget amounts to 2,744 million roubles, including capital investments of 2,278 million roubles (86.5 per cent), outlays for scientific-research and experimental-construction projects come to 10.5 million roubles (0.5 per cent) and other current expenditures amount to 455.5 million roubles (13 per cent). The capital-investment financing sources are the federal budget — 750 million roubles (33 per cent), funds from the budgets of entities of the Russian Federation — 1,182 million roubles (52 per cent) and non-budget sources — 346 million roubles (15 per cent). The special federal programme "Children of the North", which is part of the presidential programme (Children of Russia) and was approved under decision No. 625 of 25 August 2000 of the Government of the Russian Federation, is an important and effective programme for solving the problems of the small indigenous minorities of the North and their children.

Activities under this programme were designed to support health-care, educational, cultural and sport institutions working with children in the northern territories. The establishment of a network of telemedical centres on the basis of district hospitals and polyclinics that are able to receive consultations from clinical centres in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Krasnoyarsk is an indicator of the introduction of new technologies in organizing children's health care in view of lack

of transport and the considerable distances involved. Telemedical stations were set up in 29 entities of the Russian Federation. The Scientific Health Centre for the Children of the North at the Paediatrics Institute of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences is the methodology centre for such stations. It has become a practice to send comprehensive medical brigades from the country's central medical institutions to the remotest northern territories in order to examine children, and particular attention is given to the children of the small indigenous minorities of the North.

Taking into account the importance of work to improve the situation of children, the Government of the Russian Federation decided to develop the subprogramme "Children of the North" within the framework of the special federal programme "Children of Russia" for 2003-2006 Government (Government decision No. 1161-r of 16 August 2003).

The special federal programme "Economic and Social Development of Small Indigenous Minorities of the North up to the Year 2011" provides, during the period 2002-2011, for the construction of 125 factory shops for the processing of fish (including canning and smoking sections), seafood and products from sea-mammal hunting, and two fish-processing plants. The programme provides for the allocation, during period from 2002 to 2011, of 794.79 million roubles (in terms of 2001 prices) from various financing sources, including the federal budget in order to finance the development of traditional industries and the all-around processing of their products, and to protect the natural environment and the resource potential of the areas where the small indigenous minorities of the North live.

There are plans under the programme to carry out a number of tasks, of which the main one is to develop a raw-material and technological production basis for traditional economic practices and industries linked to the processing of raw materials and products, and to ensure a transition to an innovative path of development.

The system of programme measures aims to increase yield of fish, sea mammals and other sea products within assigned quotas. There are plans to overhaul and re-equip a small fishing fleet and acquire small vessels and other equipment.

Members of the small indigenous minorities and small ethnic communities of the North and Far East, whose way of life, economy and employment are traditionally based on the exploitation of living resources, are permitted to catch biological water resources for their own consumption with the use of traditional hunting and fishing implements.

Under article 11 of Federal Act No. 187-F3 of 30 November 1995 on the Continental Shelf of the Russian Federation and article 9 of Federal Act No. 191-F3 of 17 December 1998 on the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Russian Federation, members of the small indigenous minorities and ethnic communities of the North and Far East of the Russian Federation, whose way of life, economy and employment are traditionally based on hunting and fishing and also the population of the North and Far East of the Russian Federation in areas where they permanently live in territories adjacent to the seacoast of the Russian Federation have the preferential right to use living resources. In accordance with article 49 of Federal Act No. 52-F3 of 24 July 1995 on the Animal World, the right to priority use of the animal world includes the granting of the first choice of hunting and fishing grounds, privileges in respect of the periods and areas for hunting and fishing and

acquiring animal and fish products and other uses in accordance with the legislation in force.

Under article 13 of Federal Act No. 104-F3 of 20 July 2000 on the General Principles for Organizing Communities of Small Indigenous Minorities of the North, Siberia and the Russian Far East, members of small minority communities must make rational use of natural resources and take environmental protection measures. The use of natural resources is permitted in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation and the customs of the small minorities.

In the areas where the small indigenous minorities and ethnic communities of the North and Far East live and conduct traditional economic activities, the procedures and methods for exploiting the natural resources of the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea are defined and established in accordance with Russian legislation (Federal Act No. 155-F3 of 31 July 1998 on the Internal Maritime Waters, the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone of the Russian Federation).

The Russian Federation has a number of intergovernmental fishing agreements (with the United States of America, Canada, Japan and others), which regulate questions relating to the economic development of the small indigenous peoples of the North and the Far East.

Russian Federation Government order No. 1265-r of 2 September 2003 approved the conceptual plan for the development of the fishing industry in the Russian Federation for the period up to 2020.

In developing that plan, Russian Federation Government decision No. 704 of 20 November 2003 on catch quotas for biological water resources was adopted, in accordance with which Russian Federation Government order No. 1948-r of 30 December 2003 approved general sizes of catch quotas of biological water resources for 2004 in order to meet the specific requirements (personal consumption) of the small indigenous minorities and ethnic communities of the North, Siberia and the Russian Far East, whose way of life, employment and economy are traditionally based on the exploitation of these resources distributed throughout entities of the Russian Federation whose territory is adjacent to the seacoast.

The special federal programme "social development of villages up to the year 2010" provides for the sending of 1.47 billion roubles to 76 regions of the Russian Federation for the social development of rural areas. These funds are being provided, in particular, to maintain and develop the unique cultures of the indigenous peoples and ensure their constructive participation in village development.

2. Natural environment

The areas inhabited by the small indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Far East are distinctive by virtue not only of their extreme living conditions but also by the fact that both traditional types of economic activity as well as the mining and extraction of mineral resources are conducted simultaneously in the same area.

The fund of lands assigned under a decision by the Russian Federation Government to the areas where the small minorities of the North live comprises more than 800 million hectares, of which, as of 1 January 2002, 325.782 million hectares are used as reindeer pastures, including 207.953 million hectares of reindeer pastures which are located on lands in a forest fund area. In this area, the indigenous population has, from time immemorial, engaged in reindeer breeding, hunting, fishing and other pursuits as well as traditional crafts.

The structure for natural resources management that had been in place since the beginning of the 1930s and the conceptual plan for developing the North gave priority to the development of industry to the detriment of traditional economic practices. This created extensive highly polluted areas and resulted in environmental degradation, which damaged and rendered useless the most valuable lands in terms of agriculture.

Considerable detriment was first of all caused to the reindeer pastures and reindeer breeding, which is a leading branch of agricultural production and plays the most important role in the life (culture, everyday existence and economy) of the peoples of the North. One can observe practically everywhere the diminution, pollution and deterioration of reindeer pastures and reduced stocks of fodder, which result in the excessive overgrazing of pastures, the destruction of reindeer-moss forage and their unsuitability for economic use. The further degradation of the reindeer pastures is continuing along with the reduction of their overall area. The area of reindeer pastureland that has been degraded in varying degrees comprises more than 230 million hectares, of which the basic part is composed of pastures with an average and high degree of degradation.

The deleterious effect of industrial sites on reindeer pastures and hunting grounds, which affects up to 40 per cent of the lands used for traditional natural resources management, constitutes a factor which significantly destabilizes the ecological situation in these areas.

Extensive areas have been rendered unsuitable for use as a result of mineral mining geological exploration, construction and other types of work. The recultivation of deteriorated land is proceeding at a slow pace and sometimes is not carried out at all.

The use of the natural resources of the regions of the North, which is leading to irreversible changes in the natural landscape, spoiling and destroying tens of thousands of reindeer pastures and hunting and fishing grounds and having a negative impact on the ecological situation, is causing the destruction of the economic basis of the vital activities of the indigenous population and other socio-economic consequences.

Federal Act No. 82/F3 of 30 April 1999 on Guarantees for the Rights of the Small Indigenous Minorities of the Russian Federation is creating a stock of legal texts for developing traditional economic practices in areas inhabited by indigenous peoples, and re-enforces their right to own and use land and other natural resources and to control the use of such land and resources.

The adoption of Federal Act No. 49-F3 of 7 May 2001 on the Territories of Traditional Natural-Resource Use by the Small Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Russian Far East has made it possible to carry out on a legislative basis a set of land management projects for establishing the boundaries of the

territories of traditional natural resource use. However, the suspension or substantial reduction in recent years of special-purpose financing for land management projects has not made it possible to implement these projects fully.

In the decades prior to 1995, a sufficient database on the use of land resources was set up as a result of geobotanical tests of reindeer pastures and land management projects in the territories of the North. Other projects aimed at making rational use of those areas were carried out on the basis of these materials. However, owing to a lack of financing, the data collected in recent years have practically not been updated and, in view of the intensive industrial development of the territory, are rapidly becoming obsolete and need to be periodically updated in order to be kept current.

Land management was not financed within the framework of the special federal programme "Economic and Social Development of Small Indigenous Minorities of the North up to the Year 2000", and there is no provision for it under the special federal programme "Economic and Social Development of Small indigenous Minorities of the North up to the Year 2011".

In order to conserve agricultural resources, inter alia, in the areas inhabited by an indigenous population, the Russian Federation has acceded to all the basic United Nations conventions on this question: the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat Desertification, the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Agreement on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, the Protocol on Biosafety, the Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Convention on Hazardous Chemicals, the Convention on Wetlands, and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

In order to implement the provisions of international agreements within the country, it seems necessary to elaborate policy instruments to correlate the long-term and short-term needs of indigenous peoples, promoting self-sufficiency and ensuring equal access to land, water and forest resources and also to technology and financing, marketing, processing and distribution systems. The strengthening and development of management and the internal potential of local self-government bodies and agricultural information services as well as the decentralization of the decision-making process could also serve the goals of stable development.

3. Public health

During the 2001-2002 school year, the Russian Federation Ministry of Health initiated and organized large-scale monitoring the health of pupils in the North, the purpose of which is to identify and evaluate their real state of health and the adaptation of pupils from the first to the eleventh classes to modern instruction.

Approximately 10,000 pupils from 142 schools in 8 northern territories, including the Amur region, the Komi-Perm, Khanty-Mansi, and Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Areas, the Tyva, Altai and Sakha (Yakutia) Republics, and also the Krasnoyarsk Territory, were examined.

The monitoring indicated various health anomalies already among 40 to 70 per cent of first class pupils, ranging from functional to chronic diseases. The low initial level of health among the children in the first class has a most unfavourable effect on their adaptation to the school workload and the schedule of a modern general-

education school and is the reason for the further deterioration of their state of health. By the tenth class, the number of healthy pupils is no more than 10 to 12 per cent.

The results of the monitoring have made it possible to establish a database, which is necessary for drawing up regional norms for the physical development of children and adolescents and also for the long-term prognosis of the health, physical development and successful learning of pupils in schools in the northern regions of the Russian Federation. The Ministry of Education's action plan for 2002-2004 for implementing a scheme to modernize Russian education for the period up to 2010 sets forth ways to ensure conditions for improving the health of pupils and students in the educational system, including the children of the North.

Cooperating with the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the Global Fund to Combat AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the World Health Organization and other United Nations specialized agencies, the Russian Federation Ministry of Health is orienting the programme activities of these organizations in the areas indicated in this report.

4. Human rights

The Russian Federation was among the initiators of the proclamation by the United Nations of the International Decade of the Indigenous Peoples of the World and, beginning in 1993, has been a co-sponsor of corresponding resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights.

During the Decade with the active support of the Russian Federation, a working group was set up within the United Nations to draw up a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues was established.

At major international forums, the delegations of the Russian Federation have consistently advocated inclusion of the issues related to indigenous peoples in final documents.

At all international events devoted to indigenous peoples, Russian delegations maintain close contact with the representatives of Russia's indigenous peoples if they are participating in such events. In order to broaden the possibilities for such participation, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, carries out work with the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples, whose task is to assist the members of the communities and organizations of indigenous peoples in their participation in the Organization's basic conferences on this question. The Russian Federation was among the countries that supported the broad and equal participation of representatives of indigenous peoples together with States in the process of drawing up the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, which is fully in keeping with one of the Decade's objectives — expanding and strengthening cooperation by States with indigenous peoples on the basis of partnership.

With the support of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, one of the most influential Russian non-governmental organizations — the Association of Small

Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East — was granted consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

5. Culture

Support for the artistic creativity of the children of the North, including the small minorities of the North, is an important aspect of the special federal programme "Children of the North" within the framework of the presidential programme "Children of Russia". A traditional festival, "Following the Sun", is held annually, enabling thousands of children of the North to demonstrate their individual creativity and join in the traditions of their cultures. In addition, activities under the programme were designed to support traditional artistic pursuits of indigenous minorities and are oriented towards teaching such skills to the younger generation. Within the framework of the programme, sporting competitions are held in local types of sport, and support is provided to children's and young people's sporting schools, circles and clubs in acquiring sport equipment.

In 2003, within the framework of the plan of activities under the special federal programme "Culture of Russia (2001-2005)", in accordance with the subsection "Scientific support" the following scientific research projects were devoted to the study of traditional culture and preserving the cultural heritage of the indigenous minorities:

- a comprehensive scientific folklore and ethnographic expedition to study the folklore and family and everyday rituals of the peoples and ethnic groups in the Kurgan region (the Kurgan Regional Method Association "Kultura");
- an electronic encyclopaedia of the traditional culture of the Finno-Ugric peoples "Musical Instruments of the Finno-Ugrians" (Ethnic Creative Arts Centre of the Mari-El Republic);
- "Chuvash ethnic architecture of the Ural-Volga region from the Middle Ages to the contemporary period" (Chuvash State Institute of the Humanities);
- "Traditional Musical Instruments in the Culture of Russian's Peoples" (the Ministry of Culture's Russian Institute for the History of the Arts);
- "Traditional Chuvash art. Problems of semantics and stylistics" (Academy of Chuvash Spiritual Art, in Cheboksary).

Within the framework of the section "Identification of and support for talented young people, professional training" of the special federal programme "Culture of Russia (2001-2005)", the Office of Science and Education of the Russian Ministry of Culture has, over a number of years, been implementing the programme "Russian's Youthful Talent", which includes the awarding of annual grants to the most talented pupils and students in cultural and artistic educational institutions and also the holding of various organizational and creative events (master classes, creative schools, competitions, festivals and so forth). The Ministry of Culture's grant recipients traditionally include talented young people from all of the Russian Federation's national republics and autonomous areas without exception. The creative schools for talented children are conducted in a number of entities of the Russian Federation: Karachai-Cherkesia, Karelia, Khakasia Altai, Chukotka and others. The systemic approach is also characteristic of the creative schools for gifted

children that are organized in a number of entities of the Russian Federation: Karachaevo-Cherkesiya, Karelia, Akhazia, Altai, Chukotka and others.

Mass media. In 2003, the Ministry of the Press, Television and Radio Broadcasting and Mass Telecommunications Media allocated grants amounting to the overall sum of 21.331 million roubles for projects in the field of the electronic mass media relating to the topic of ethnic relations. The projects included "Open Islands", a television series on the history, culture and ethnography of the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area (producer: the State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company "Yugoriya", in Khanty-Mansiisk); "The Green Tortoise", a television programme on the environmental problems and the traditions of the peoples of Buryatia (producer: the Buryat State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, in Ulan-Ude); "Russia 2003", a television film series on the regions of the Russian Federation for a video archive (producer: "Education in the Third Millennium", an interregional educational fund); "Setenai", a television programme in the Adigei language on Adigei women (producer: the State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company of the Republic of Adigei, in Maikop); "Provincial Museums of Russia" a documentary film cycle (producer: "Pozitiv-Film" Studio, aired on the "Kultura" television channel); "We Shall Not Go Away" a documentary film for the 1,000th anniversary of Kazan (producer: the Public Innovation Fund of the Republic of Tatarstan, aired on the "Tatarstan" State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company); "Peoples of Russia", a radio programme broadcast on the "Russia Radio" "Mayak" channels; "Peoples of Russia: Unity and Diversity", an Internet site (organized by the "Turkestan" Cultural Centre) and others.

In addition, in 2003, in accordance with article 422 of the federal budget on "State support for the periodic press", the Russian Ministry of the Press provided financial assistance amounting to 9.302 million roubles to 107 newspapers and magazines published in the national languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation. The publications that received financing also include print media published in areas with a small indigenous population: the newspapers *Aborigen Kamchatki* (Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky), *Kodima*, *Oma mua*, *Syldyschygash*, *Tyvanyn anyyaktary*, *Ene sozu* (Kyzyl), *Taimyr* (Dudinka) and others; and the magazines *Karelia*, *Kipinya* (Petrozavodsk) *Literaturny Dagestan*, *Sokolenok* (Makhachkala), and *Maramyz* (Cherkessk).

6. Education

The special federal programme "Children of the North", within the framework of the presidential programme "Children of Russia", actively participated in the introduction of new educational technologies for instructing children in the northern territories, including those of indigenous minorities. In 23 entities of the Russian Federation, computer classrooms have been set up, new instructional software products have been created and installed, and the publication of handbooks on teaching methods and literature for supplementary reading in the languages of the indigenous peoples has been supported. During the years in which the programme was implemented, approximately 30 textbooks and teaching-method handbooks were published. The pupil's polar encyclopaedia, *The Arctic is My Home*, which consists of three volumes and which all schools in the northern territories have received, and the pupil's northern library, consisting of six volumes, were the largest publications.

Pre-school education. At the present time, there are approximately 19,000 pre-school institutions, where more than 1 million children receive instruction in areas of the North, Siberia and the Far East, including those with a high concentration of small indigenous minorities, where there are 958 institutions teaching approximately 60,000 children.

Under the new social and economic conditions, pre-school educational institutions are actively working on updating the content of education. Teachers in pre-school educational institutions make use of educational programmes and teaching technologies approved by the Ministry of Education ("Rainbow", "Development", "From Childhood to Adolescence" and others), in which the development of the child and his individual abilities and inclinations is foremost. Programmes and teaching technologies that take into account the specific nature of the educational activities of pre-school institutions in accordance with the conditions and requirements of the region in question are being developed.

The network of national pre-school educational institutions which provide instruction in the native language is being expanded. There are 191 pre-school institutions teaching children from the small minorities of the North in 14 regions of the Siberian Federal Area. The largest number of such institutions is in the Krasnoyarsk Territory, where there are 70, and the Tomsk Region, with 43.

In terms of preserving and developing national cultures, effective research is being conducted for pre-school educational institutions in pedagogical educational institutions and advanced training institutes (the Sakha Republic (Yakutia), the Omsk, Novosibirsk, Kemerovo, Irkutsk and Chita Regions, the Krasnoyarsk and Altai Territories and others).

General education. Today in the northern regions of the Russian Federation there are more than 19,000 general education institutions in operation with approximately 5 million pupils (throughout the Russian Federation there are 64,508 general educational institutions with 16,488,200 pupils). In the 664 general educational schools situated in areas with a high concentration of the small indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Far East, more than 76,000 children are being taught (this also includes children of other ethnic groups in addition to those from the small indigenous minorities in question) and 23 native languages are being studied, including:

Chukchi —in 35 schools in the Chukchi Autonomous Area,

Dolgan — in 3 schools in the Taimyr (Dolgan-Nenets) Autonomous Area,

Eskimo — in 39 schools (grades 1 to 11) in the Chukchi Autonomous Area,

Evenk — in 26 schools (grades 1 to 11) and 61 other schools in the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) and the Khabarovsk and Krasnoyarsk Territories,

Itelmen — in 2 schools in the Koryak Autonomous Area,

Ket — in 9 schools in the Krasnoyarsk Territory,

Khanty (3 dialects) — in 33 schools in the Khanty-Mansi and Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Areas,

Komi — in 372 schools in the Komi Republic,

Koryak — in 21 schools in the Koryak Autonomous Area,

Mansi — in 12 schools in the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area,

Nanai — in 13 schools in the Khabarovsk Territory,

Nganasan — in 2 schools in the Krasnoyarsk Territory,

Nenets — in 35 schools in the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Area,

Nivkh (2 dialects) — in 2 schools in the Sakhalin Region,

Saami — in 1 school in the Murmansk Region,

Selkup — in 6 schools in the Tomsk Region,

Shor — in 3 schools in the Kemerovo Region,

Tofalar — in 2 schools in the Irkutsk Region,

Tuvin — in 41 schools in the Tyva Republic,

Udegei — in 1 school in the Khabarovsk Territory,

Ulch — in 2 schools in the Khabarovsk Territory,

Veps — in 5 schools in the Republic of Karelia,

Teaching is conducted in three languages:

Evenk — in 2 schools (grades 1 to 11) in the Sakha Republic (Yakutia),

Tuvin — in 151 schools (grades 1 to 9) in the Tyva Republic,

Yukagir — in 2 schools (grades 1 to 11) in the Sakha Republic (Yakutia).

Ethnocultural subjects such as, for example, regional history, ethnic folklore, and national traditions and customs are also taught, and circles engaging in ethnic sports, local crafts and so forth are active. Specialized instruction in the occupations of "the fisherman-hunter" and "the reindeer herder" has been organized in Evenk schools in the Amur region.

Classes traditionally begin on 1 September in the schools of the North, as in all schools of the Russian Federation. This date, which is customary for all Russian schools, is inconvenient for schools in the North.

The life of the northern peoples is, on the whole, linked to the natural cycles and corresponds to the seasons of the year. The end of August and the beginning of September are a time of preparation for winter. Children in this situation are their parent's main helpers. The fact that children acquire the experience of older generations in the course of their work is a further advantage of their close proximity to their parents. Accordingly, the Ministry of Education authorized the local educational authorities to set the date for the start of the school year independently in accordance with local conditions so as not to separate children from their parents during this period, which is so important for their development.

Publication of textbooks. Under the Russian Constitution and acts on Education and on Guarantees for the Rights of Small Indigenous Minorities of the Russian Federation, the publication of textbooks in various (non-Russian) languages for schools where members of the small indigenous minorities are taught is financed by funds from the federal budget.

In order to determine the complete and qualitative requirements for creating and publishing school literature, the Ministry of Education, in 2002, carried out an inventory of the teaching resources in school libraries as of 1 January 2000. For the first time, reliable information was obtained on textbooks available in schools, and the real needs of regions with regard to instructional literature in native languages were identified.

In 2003, the St. Petersburg branch of Prosveschenie Publishing House, in accordance with an order placed by the Ministry of Education under State contract No. 932 of 11 June 2003, prepared instructional literature for the sum of 2.155 million roubles and Drofa Publishing House, under State contract No. 931 of 11 June 2003, produced such materials at a cost of 3.7 million roubles for schools attended by the members of the small indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Far East.

At the present time, the St. Petersburg branch of "Prosveschenie" is publishing textbooks in 20 languages for the small minorities of the Extreme North, Siberia and the Far East. It should also be pointed out that textbooks are published not only in various languages, but also in different dialects. For example, they are published in four dialects of the Khanty language (Kazym, Shuryshkar, Surgut and Vakhov) and in two dialects of the Nivkh and Nenets languages. In addition, textbooks on the Russian language as the State language of the Russian Federation are published through funds from the federal budget. Primers in Russian for the peoples of the North are published for four linguistic groups: the Evenks and Evens; the Khants, Mansis and Saams; and the peoples of Chukotka and Kamchatka. Textbooks on Russian (grammars and readers) are also published for grades 2 to 4.

In 2002 and 2003, course programmes, teaching aids and dictionaries were produced in the Evenk, Nivkh and Nanai languages for pupils in schools in areas populated by the small indigenous minorities of the North; and, for classes 5 to 9 at Koryak, Yukagir, Dolgan and Nivkh schools, and classes 10 to 11 at Nanai, Chukchi and Eskimo schools, as well as bilingual dictionaries for pupils in schools in areas inhabited by the small indigenous minorities of the North and teaching aids on the traditional occupations, crafts and trades of the peoples of the North.

Textbooks are republished once every five years. The number of books published varies between 200 and 1,000-1,500 copies in native languages (according to the number of pupils) and up to 2,000 copies in the Russian language.

Personnel training. The training of personnel from among members of the small indigenous minorities of the North is determined by the need to create and maintain at the State level a complete and viable environment in areas with a high concentration of these peoples, and to preserve traditional values, culture and management skills along with new ways of life.

The main objective of the personnel policy with regard to the small indigenous minorities of the North is increasingly to train and shape a generation of leaders, specialists and workers capable of adapting to new living conditions.

The training system in the field of fish breeding is playing an important role in the training of personnel for the northern regions of the country. In order to train members of the small indigenous minorities of the North and the Far East and adapt them to the conditions of a market economy, special places are assigned each year in higher and secondary specialized academic institutions that are financed with funds

from the federal budget of the Russian Federation for admission for full-time and external instruction in the basic fish-industry specialities. Special vocational training programmes for members of the indigenous peoples of the North and the Far East are conducted in a number of specialized academic institutions in the Murmansk, Kamchatka and Tyumen Regions and the Primorsky Territory.

The basic specialties in which members of indigenous minorities are traditionally trained are: "water bio-resources and aquaculture", "technology for the production of fish products", "low temperature engineering and physics", "food-production machines and appliances", "comprehensive use and conservation of water bio-resources" and "ichthyology and fish breeding".

One of the basic problems impeding the training of young people in these regions is the remoteness of many settlements from major educational centres, which is characteristic of the northern regions, as well as the high cost of travel from places of residence to academic institutions. The Kamchatka State Technical University and the Far East State Technical Fishery University are working to solve this problem by establishing distance-learning centres enabling students, including members of the small indigenous minorities, to receive higher and intermediate vocational training.

Personnel are also being retrained in specialties required in a market economy in all academic institutions of the Russian State Fisheries Committee. Members of small indigenous minorities are admitted under preferential conditions for training in such programmes.

Training of teaching personnel. The training of teachers of the native (non-Russian) languages of the small indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Far East and ethnocultural subjects is conducted in the 12 higher academic institutions and 14 secondary specialized academic institutions, and retraining and advanced training is provided in 17 supplementary vocational-training institutions.

The special admission of students from the small indigenous minorities, inter alia, through contractual relations between the executive authorities of entities of the Russian Federation and the corresponding educational institutions has become an established practice. Educational institutions conduct training both in traditional teaching specialties as well as specially designed ones taking into account the specific requirements of small indigenous minorities. The teaching is financed on the basis of norms which exceed general Russian norms. Under current legislation, travel to places where summer courses are conducted and also to places of actual residence is covered through funds from the federal budget.

Among the higher education institutions, the Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russian should be noted in particular as a leading institution in this field. Approximately 700 students from regions in the North, Siberia and the Far East are being trained here in 20 colleges (including the Institute of the Peoples of the North) in 32 specialties (the humanities, philology, psychology, philosophy, history, political science, regional studies and tourism, national economics, musical education, the fine arts, natural science and so forth). A department of the Shor language and literature, which has graduated more than 20 specialists, has been in operation since 1999 at the Novokuznetsk State Pedagogical Institute. Training in the specialties "Teacher of the Veps language and literature", Pre-school pedagogy and psychology (specialization in the "Veps language") and others is provided in

two higher academic institutions of the Republic of Karelia (Petrozavodsk State University and the Karelia State Pedagogical University).

With a view to training teachers for indigenous schools, the Russian Ministry of Education in 1998 introduced the specialty "Native language and literature" into the classified list of specializations for intermediate vocational training. Graduates become qualified as "teachers of native language and literature at a basic general school". Training of teachers in this specialty for the small minorities of the North, Siberia and the Far East is provided at Anadyr Pedagogical College of the Peoples of the North, the Buryat Republic Pedagogical College, the Vologda Pedagogical College, Petrozavodsk Pedagogical College No. 1, and Khanty-Mansi Pedagogical College. Graduates learn about the system and levels of the native language, its cognates and typological relationships with other languages, history, current status and evolutionary trends and about native literature and folklore, indigenous children's literature, cultural history of the indigenous people and literature of related peoples.

The introduction of such specializations as "Folkloric works", "Regional studies", and "Ethnic literature" is possible in order to revive the culture, traditions, language and customs of the indigenous peoples inhabiting the Extreme North, Siberia and the Far East.

There are plans for the possible introduction of the specialization "Ethnic sports" within the framework of specializations No. 0307 "Physical cultural" and No. 0317 "Extra-curricular teaching".

Specialization No. 0311 "Fine arts and drawing" now includes an additional training component on the technology of folk-art painting. Graduates qualify as teachers of fine arts and drawing with additional training in the technology of folk-art painting. They have knowledge and skills relating to North Dvina and Ural-Siberian painting inter alia. Within the framework of this specialization, it is possible to introduce others in decorative-applied arts and ethnic crafts.

Specialization No. 0312 "Teaching in elementary classes" now includes additional training in the area of the native (minority) language and literature. The Naryan-Mar Teacher Training College (Nenets Autonomous Area) and the Norilsk Teacher Training College (Taimyr (Dolgan-Nenets) Autonomous Area) have introduced this training in order to prepare teachers for the small minorities of the North. Curriculums include such subjects as "Ethnography", "Ethno-choreography" and "Lessons from our ancestors".

The Palan Teacher Training College was established in 1990 in the Koryak Autonomous Area. Of its 132 students, 90 per cent are members of the indigenous peoples of the North and are fully supported by the State (three free meals daily and free board and clothing). Training is provided in three specializations: No. 0312 "Teaching in elementary classes", No. 0313 "Pre-school education", and No. 0317 "Extra-curricular teaching". An ethno-regional component has been introduced into the curriculum, with subjects such as ethnic applied arts (work with fur and beads), ethno-choreography, local history, native languages (Koryak, Even and Itelmen), and the culture and way of life of the peoples of the North.

Murmansk Teacher Training College trains teachers for the indigenous peoples of the North in the Murmansk region. In order to preserve the unique culture of the indigenous peoples of the North (Komis, Saams, and Evenks) and develop traditions

of inter-ethnic relations, during its 1999-2000 academic year, the College introduced within the framework of specialization No. 0314 "Social pedagogy", the specialization "Foundations of ethnic (Saami) works". The College developed curriculums for the following subjects: "Applied arts of the peoples of the North", "Oral ethnic (Saami) works", "Regional studies", "Ecology of the polar region", "Physical training of pre-school children in the conditions of the Extreme North" and "History of the Kola Land".

The non-return of trained personnel to their historic homeland because of insufficient social welfare and complicated working conditions is one of the main problems affecting the training of teachers for the small indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Far East.

Training of personnel for areas with a high concentration of the small indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Far East. The Russian Ministry of Education is currently conducting considerable work on expanding access for young people, particularly from the small indigenous minorities, to vocational training. The problem is being addressed both by setting up universities in the republics and by opening branches of colleges in areas where indigenous populations are concentrated.

The Yugor State University was set up in Khanty-Mansiisk in 2001. More than 70 branches of the country's higher education institutions have now been opened, including branches of colleges in Moscow, Saint Petersburg and Novosibirsk. Eleven have been opened in the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area alone; 17 in the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Area; 11 in the Sakha Republic (Yakutia); 8 in the Komi Republic; 4 in the Chukchi Autonomous Area; and 2 in the Aga-Buryat Autonomous Area.

Furthermore, to assist with the training of members of the small indigenous minorities of the North, the Ministry of Education provides support to the administrations of corresponding entities of the Russian Federation which request help in the assignment of places at colleges within the quotas financed by the federal budget.

For example, in 2002 the Ministry supported requests from the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) to assign 1,017 places, and from the Tyva Republic for 460 places.

Special places are assigned annually in colleges for the Kosh Agach and the Ulagan Districts of the Altai Republic.

Members of the small indigenous minorities of the North are admitted on a priority basis to the State Polar Academy in St. Petersburg, where approximately 800 persons from those minorities and from among the inhabitants of the northern regions of the Russian Federation are currently being trained in the specializations of finance and credit, the national economy, management, State and municipal administration, and philology (two faculties were established — economics and administration, and philology — and three departments — humanities, philology, and economics and administration — were established in these fields of specialization). The choice of these specializations was determined by the fact that, in spite of the considerable demand for them in the regions, either there are no personnel with vocational training from among the members of the indigenous population or their number is insufficient. Each year, 200 persons are admitted for

all specializations at the expense of the federal budget, and approximately 100 persons are fully reimbursed for education costs.

In addition, personnel for areas with a high concentration of members of the small indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Far East are trained in elementary and intermediate vocational training institutions. There are more than 2,500 such training institutions in the northern regions of the Russian Federation.

The list of skills for which elementary vocational training is provided, as confirmed by decision No. 1362 of 8 December 1999 of the Government of the Russian Federation, includes 292 items, of which 34 are taught at elementary vocational training institutions to members of the small minorities of the North, Siberia and the Far East. The biggest demand is for training in skills linked to traditional artistic pursuits, as well as hunting, reindeer-breeding and fishing:

Fur goods manufacturer (multi-skilled),
Leather and fur processor,
Embroiderer,
Manufacturer of artistic goods from bones and horns,
Reindeer breeder,
Veterinary assistant,
Commercial hunter,
Coastal fisherman,
Fish and seafood processor.

In view of the need to train reindeer breeders among the Saams, there are now plans to set up a modern Saam learning centre at vocational college No. 6 in the town of Lovozero in the Murmansk Region. The Russian Ministry of Education, together with the Education Committee of the Murmansk Regional Administration, drew up the draft statute of the centre for training personnel from the ethnic groups of the entire North. The experience gained in work carried out by the centre will be passed on to other regions with a large concentration of the small indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Far East.

The northern regions' annual projected quotas for training qualified workers and specialists in elementary vocational training institutions provide for an intake of members of the small indigenous minorities. The Ministry of Education fully takes into account their projections in drawing up the annual draft quotas.

Intermediate vocational training also plays a considerable role in meeting the training and personnel needs of the northern regions of the Russian Federation.

Since 1995, the training of specialists in State and municipal intermediate specialized training institutions has steadily grown.

The preparation of specialists in colleges that represent a new type of academic institution with higher quality training programmes is playing a large role in meeting training needs.

Set of measure to develop the system of training institutions in areas with a large concentration of the small indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Far East. The Ministry of Education, in implementation of instructions issued on 26 November 2002 by the Council on the Far North and the Arctic under the Government of the Russian Federation and in accordance with section III, paragraph 3, "On improving the system of State support for the small indigenous minorities of

the Extreme North and the Arctic" drew up and approved, under Ministry Order No. 2561 of 18 June 2003, a set of measures to develop the system of t ining institutions in areas with a large concentration of the small indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia, and the Far East of the Russian Federation. The set of measures is designed to create the necessary conditions and to solve both general problems affecting the country's educational system as well as the specific problems facing the educational institutions situated in areas where there is a large concentration of small indigenous minorities, including the provision of free complete secondary education in accordance with State education standards and free education at other levels within the bounds provided by law, ensuring equal access to education at various levels, choice of an educational institution and curriculum regardless of one's place of residence and family income level, and providing an education in accordance with the established State education standards guaranteeing curriculum quality acceptable to society.

The set of measures provides for work in the following areas:

1. Enhancing the content of education in educational institutions in the North, Siberia and the Far East with account taken of local peculiarities, traditional ways of life and types of activities.

The measures to be carried in this area include:

- development and introduction of educational programmes aimed at promoting respect for the culture, history and language of one's people (2005-2007) in pre-school educational institutions with pupils from the small indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and Far East;
- development of instructional school-adaptation programmes for children from the small indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation who have not attended children's pre-school educational institutions (2004-2006);
- development of a comprehensive programme for the continual upbringing and education of children from the small indigenous minorities of the peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East (2005-2007);
- development of an experimental model of a general education institution for children of the small indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Far East who lead a nomadic way of life (2004-2006);
- conducting socio-pedagogical research to determine the level of knowledge one's native (non-Russian) language and the Russian (non-native) language among children of the small indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Far East (2005-2006);
- monitoring the extent to which libraries in general education institutions in regions with a large concentration of small indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Far East are equipped with books and materials on teaching methods.

2. The training, retraining and advanced training of teachers from the small indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Far East for work in pre-school educational institutions and general education institutions for those minorities;

3. The holding of practical scientific conferences and seminars on the problems of education and meeting the ethnocultural needs of the small indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Far East. Discussion will focus on questions related to various current aspects of implementing the Russian Federation's national education policy under the conditions of the modernization of Russian education, the problems of meeting the ethnocultural educational needs of the small indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Far East, the question of native (non-Russian) languages in the educational systems of those minorities, the problems relating to the socialization of children and adolescents from the small indigenous minorities, the role of the ethnic-regional component in maintaining the unity of Russia's educational system, and questions relating to the ethnic identity and health of the children of the North and other matters.

4. The publishing of literature on teaching and teaching methods for the small indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East.

5. Providing psychological and pedagogical assistance to children from the small indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Far East.